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Bangalore Mirror

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Stage meets science

South Indian student groups staged the South India Science Drama Festival 2024 at Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum on Thursday

10,000 BPL cards cancelled due to technical errors

BPL cards have been revoked for several families, leaving them without key welfare benefits like Bhagyalakshmi scheme and Ayushman Bharat access

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Thousands of women are denied Bhagyalakshmi benefits

Technical issues have resulted in the cancellation of Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards for over 10,000 families, despite these families having no outstanding Income Tax (IT) or Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments. Sources said that many of these families were already excluded from receiving the monthly 2,000 'Bhagyalakshmi' scheme benefit due to similar discrepancies, and now, with their BPL cards also cancelled, they face even greater challenges. This development has left over 10,000 families in distress.

For the past several months, thousands of eligible women have been visiting Women and Child Development Officers in various taluks, submitting requests, and seeking resolutions. Some even obtained official documents from the IT and GST departments certifying they are not taxpayers, yet they continue to be denied Bhagyalakshmi benefits.

Sources said that Statewide, a total of 1.78 lakh families have been flagged as IT/GST payers, causing a suspension of their Bhagyalakshmi scheme payments. Many women have appealed to the CDPO offices, asking for reconsideration. These appeals have been forwarded to the Department of Women and Child Development's central office. Despite multiple meetings between the department and the IT department, a resolution remains pending. Following the BPL cancellations, affected families now face the risk of losing access to hospital treatments under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, certain student scholarships, CM Relief Fund assistance, and eligibility for individual projects under the NREGA scheme.

705 certifications submitted in Hassan

For example, in Hassan district, 5,265 women were blocked from receiving Bhagyalakshmi benefits. Of these, 705 women obtained certificates from the IT department confirming their non-taxpayer status. These cases are currently under review by the central office, said an official. "My husband passed away, and we don't own any land. I work in a garment factory, yet my Bhagyalakshmi scheme payments stopped due to claims that we are taxpayers. Now, my BPL card is also cancelled for the same reason. Authorities need to investigate and correct this error," said Nandita Raj, a resident of Bengaluru.

Struggling to get NoCs

Meanwhile, many BPL cardholders who have lost their cards are struggling to obtain a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from the Income Tax Department to retain their welfare benefits. They claim they are not income taxpayers, yet they are being denied essential benefits such as the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme funds for women and the rice provided under the Anna Bhagya scheme. Every day, these individuals visit Income Tax offices, auditors, and cyber centres to gather documentation proving they do not fall under the taxable income bracket. To get their BPL status reinstated, they have been submitting statements to the Food Department affirming they do not file income tax.

> **"My husband passed away, we don't own any land. I work in a garment factory yet my Bhagyalakshmi scheme payments stopped due to claims that we are taxpayers**
>
> –Nandita R, resident

For example, in Mysuru and across the district, over 4,000 BPL cardholders listed in the IT database have been removed from the BPL card list. Desperate to regain their status, many are applying to the Food Department to be reinstated. However, officials insist on a NOC from the Income Tax Department, which does not issue such documents to confirm non-taxpayer status. Instead, cardholders are taking printouts from the IT portal showing "No Data Found," but these are sometimes insufficient for reinstatement. Satish, an auditor, explains that once a BPL card is cancelled, it cannot be reissued under the current rules. R Yashoda, Head of Common Service Centres, adds that many cardholders show "No Tax Payment Data Found" on the IT portal, but even with this proof, reinstatement remains a challenge.

Consumer panel orders ₹12L refund for faulty car

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The III Additional Bengaluru Urban District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered KIA Motors India Private Limited and Epitome Automobiles Private Limited, Yelahanka Old Town to pay the cost of the vehicle Rs 12,36,000 with interest at the rate of 9 per cent per annum from November 24, 2021, till realisation and a sum of Rs 50,000 towards mental agony and a sum of Rs 10,000 towards litigation cost to the complainant.

Delivering the judgment on the complaint lodged by N Ravikantha of Attur Layout, Yelahanka New Town, The III Additional Bengaluru Urban District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, headed by Shivaram K, president, Chandrasekhar S Noola, member, and Rekha Sayannavar, member, on September 10, 2024, directed KIA Motors India Private Limited and Epitome Automobiles Private Limited to pay Rs 12,36,000 with a 9 per cent interest per annum since November 24, 2021, till realisation.

N Ravikanth and his family receiving car keys from the showroom on Nov 4, 2020

N Ravikantha of Attur Layout purchased a KIA Sonet car for Rs 12,36,000 on November 4, 2020, and initially, there were no issues with the vehicle. On August 18, 2021, the complainant, Ravikantha, noticed the Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) glowing in the vehicle. He drove it to the Epitome Automobiles Private Limited service centre, where the adviser found that the engine oil was contaminated and had exceeded the required level. The excess contaminated oil, about 2.5 litres, was removed and measured in front of the complainant. Despite bringing the vehicle to the service centre multiple times for a solution, the issue remained unresolved.

The opposite party No 2 took possession of the vehicle on November 21, 2021, with the expectation of rectifying the defects, but was unable to do so. A courtesy car was provided to the complainant from December 12, 2021, to January 17, 2022, after which it was withdrawn on January 18, 2022. Following the submission of a legal notice and a police complaint, the complainant filed a case with the III Additional Bengaluru Urban District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission seeking justice.

"I underwent trauma and suffered health issues after coming to know that the vehicle was defective. I am expecting the respondents to honour the judgement and refund my money," said Ravikantha.

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UNSAFE RIDE

Study done in 4 schools in city reveals 93% of children pillion riders less likely to use proper safe helmets

CITY / PAGE 4

ROAD TO CONTEMPT

High Court notice to BBMP chief after civic agency fails to follow court order and fix stretch of road in given time

Order mandating any residential set-up or industry that uses more than 5,000 litres of water per day to have in-situ sewage treatment plants may prove impractical, citizens say

WALK ON WATER

Bulk users can buy extended user responsibility certificates from wastewater treating facilities

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Every bulk user of water, including apartments, residential societies, and houses, other than industries, with water consumption of more than 5,000 litres per day might soon be required to set up in-situ sewage treatment plants (STP) to treat their wastewater. However, many apartment residents told Bangalore Mirror this is a tall ask.

A gazette notification recently issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) says that such producers will have to undergo extended producer responsibility obligations for their wastewater.

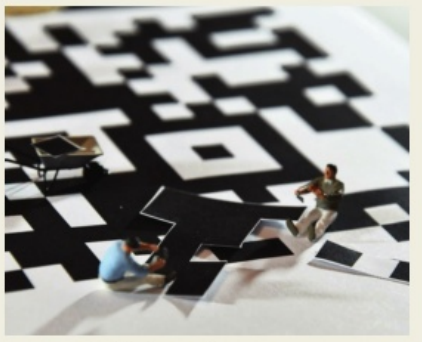
As per the notification, every bulk user of water, having water consumption of more than 5,000 litres per day or a pollution load of more than 10 kg per day in terms of biological oxygen demand (BOD) will have to register on the centralised website. Any new facilities/ premises constructed after coming into force of these rules will also have to set up and operate on-site decentralised wastewater treatment facilities of requisite capacity with appropriate technologies for treatment of wastewater.

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has mandated in-situ STP when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

> **Going by a rough calculation, a building with less than 10 families might end up consuming this quantity in a day. Setting up STP has space and other requirements that might not be fulfilled in smaller residential societies**
>
> —Satish Mallya, Bangalore Apartments Federation

ON THE CARDS



Driving licences, registration certificates to have QR code coupled with chips that give rapid access to critical details

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Lots of hi-tech changes are slated for driving licences (DL) and vehicle registration certificates (RC). The Regional Transport office (RTO) is planning to introduce QR code and chip-embedded smart cards for DLs and RCs that is aimed at reducing duplications and minimise irregularities.

Likely to kick off by January or February 2025, the Karnataka Transport Department will introduce an upgraded system that promises enhanced security, durability, and convenience for vehicle owners and authorities. This transition from the current Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) cards to advanced smart cards aims to bring a significant technological leap.

Unlike the current PVC cards, which can wear out over time, these new cards will feature laser-engraved characters that resist fading and chipping. The new smart cards will be durable as they will be made of Polycarbonate (PC) material, a higher version in the card quality with laser engraving that provides a seamless way to store essential information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Indigenous art workshop

Join in for a workshop that explores symbols of Chittara—an art form traditionally practiced by the Deevaru community of Karnataka. Chittara are part of a larger context of creativity and celebration in the cultural milieu of the region. Two workshops: from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm for ages 12-13 years; from 2 pm to 4 pm for ages 14-16 years. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art; When: November 16**

02 Melodic stories

Experience the artistry of Inga, Papabear, and Anagha as they take you on a journey through their unique musical styles and storytelling at 'Songwriter Sessions'. Inga's songs artfully blend folk, pop, and jazz. Papabear channels his emotions into music, blending hip-hop, alt-pop, and lo-fi sounds. Anagha is a vocal teacher and singer-songwriter known for her smooth vocals and melodic storytelling. **Where: PizzaExpress, Koramangala; When: November 16, 8 pm onwards**

Hunger warriors ensure nobody's plate is empty

Volunteer-driven food distribution aids city's needy while also using up all excess food

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Recently, a college festival at East West College wrapped up with a substantial surplus of food, posing the risk of waste. To make sure this food wouldn't end up in trash bins, a student reached out to the Robin Hood Army, a volunteer group committed to preventing food waste and feeding underprivileged communities.

"The quantity of food was massive, and we wanted to make sure it wouldn't go to waste. Alongside the student, our volunteers delivered meals to families in a slum near Ragigudda in Jaya Nagar, transforming the surplus into support for the community," said Raj, a volunteer with the Robin Hood Army's South Bengaluru Chapter.

The Robin Hood Army, led by South Chapter representative Younes Matheen, is no stranger to quick responses and daily food drives across Bengaluru. "We receive about four to five calls daily from individuals and organisations who want to distribute excess food. Weekends are especially busy; we distribute around 1,000 to 2,000 meals each weekend. Alongside community organisations like Helping Heroes, the Robin Hood Army ensures daily distributions across South Bengaluru, bridging the gap between food excess and hunger," said Matheen.

Distributing meals to families in slums

The importance of these efforts was significantly seen during recent heavy rains in the city. With events cancelled and schools unexpectedly closed, the volunteers of the Robin Hood Army delivered the excess food

from various gatherings to communities that needed it most. Areas like the Ragi Gudda slum, Indira Colony, East End Cluster, Arsu Colony, and Puttanpalya received much-needed support, while unplanned surpluses from events were redirected to benefit families. "We often receive urgent calls requesting food pickups, and while distribution in slum areas can be challenging, seeing the joy and relief of recipients makes every effort worth it," Raj added. In another instance, the Akshaya Patra Foundation recently found itself with excess mid-day meal supplies due to unexpected school closures. When contacted, the Robin Hood Army's volunteers quickly delivered the food to three local slums.

Need for such initiatives

One of the sustainable experts said, "These organisations bridge the gap between surplus food and communities facing food insecurity. By redistributing excess food to those in need, they provide essential meals to underprivileged families and individuals. This act in times of crisis, such as natural disasters or economic downturns, helps communities recover faster and builds resilience against future challenges."

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Study exposes gaps in helmet usage for child pillon riders

Findings show that children are 93% less likely to use proper helmet compared to parents

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A study carried out by a student has shown that 93% of children are less likely to use proper helmets. The study was carried out by Shyam Shukla under the guidance of Dr Dhaval Shukla, Neurosurgery professor, NIMHANS, and Dr Neelima Sharma, Consultant, Manipal Hospital, Jayanagar.

It was observed that the majority of the children who were pillion riders did not wear proper safety helmets, and some wore just cap-like helmets or no helmets. This highlighted the high risk of head injuries one can have during accidents. Dr Sharma pointed out the importance of wearing a proper, full-face helmet that covers the entire head and is securely buckled to prevent head injuries. "In the mornings, parents are often in a rush to drop their children and neglect wearing helmets, and many people are similarly hurrying to work or school without prioritising their safety," she noted.

As the majority of fatalities and injuries occur among two-wheeler riders, helmet use is a key risk factor for the severity of injuries and fatalities. Wearing helmets results in a 69% decrease in head injury risk and a 42% reduction in the likelihood of death. According to the Indian Motor Vehicle Act, all two-wheelers riders and pillions aged four years or above are required to wear an effective crash helmet.

On this note, a cross-sectional observational study was done in four schools, one each on the main (arterial) road, collateral road, intersection, and neighbourhood in Jayanagar and JP Nagar. Observations were made for half an hour during the time when parents dropped their wards to schools in the morning.

A parent is seen taking her child to school in this file photo

> **"Children should be educated about helmet safety from young age so that it becomes natural behaviour as they grow** –Dr Neelima Sharma, Consultant, Manipal Hospital, Jayanagar

Key findings

The study was done last month and was presented at the 17th Asian Australasian Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Annual Meeting of Talwan Neurosurgical Society. The results showcased that a total of 785 two-wheelers carried one rider (parent) and 966 children (1.23 children per two-wheeler). Though 66.7% of parents wore some headgear, only 42% wore proper helmets and of the 7.3% of children who wore some headgear, only 4.5% wore proper helmets.

It was found that significantly fewer children wore helmets. Children were 93% less likely to use a proper or no helmet compared to parents. Children are 25.31 times more likely to use no helmet compared to parents. There was not much variability in helmet use between schools.

Dr Sharma expressed a desire to collaborate with schools to share this data. "...Although the government mandates helmets for pillion riders, this rule is not widely followed. Awareness must be raised, and children should be educated about helmet safety from a young age so that it becomes a natural behaviour as they grow," she added. Proposals to promote helmet usage among children include a 'Helmet Awareness Campaign' by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, incorporating helmets as part of school uniforms, encouraging children to demand helmets, and implementing mandatory helmet regulations.

Medical board condemns attack on on-duty doctor

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Karnataka State Branch (KSB), has strongly condemned the violent stabbing of Dr Balaji, an oncologist who was attacked by a deceased patient's son in Chennai hospital. Dr Veerabhadrappa V Chiniwalar, IMA KSB President, said, "Despite substantial blood loss due to his anticoagulant medication, Dr Balaji is now stable. This incident has profoundly shocked the medical community across India."

IMA KSB State Secretary Dr Suriraju V, said, "Superficial damage control by government bodies does little to reduce the fear that doctors face. Immediate legislative action, strict punitive measures, and preventive safety protocols are urgently required. This tragic incident highlights the need for a comprehensive security overhaul in hospitals to restore doctors' confidence." **–BMB**

Unmet demands: Workers warn of indefinite strike

The contractual and outsourced staff working under the National Health Mission (NHM) in Karnataka have issued an indefinite strike notice to the Health Department, urging authorities to fulfill their long-standing demands. The NHM employees' association, led by state president Shrikantaswami and state general secretary Gavisiddappa Uppar, submitted a formal letter outlining various unmet requests and stating their intent to begin an indefinite strike within 15 days if no response is received.

The NHM staff, who have previously conducted multiple protests, claimed that despite discussions held under the leadership of the state health minister, the government has not yet taken concrete action on their demands. Additionally, they alleged that the Srinivasachari report—conducted by a retired IAS officer to address NHM workforce issues—has not been fully implemented, further delaying critical reforms. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Man trapped in lift dies

In a tragic incident on Tuesday, a 50-year-old man lost his life after being trapped between a lift door and the wall at MP Swarna Mahal within the HJS Chamber on Richmond Road around 12:30 pm. The victim, identified as Laxman Pramanik, hailing from West Bengal, was working as a jeweller in the building for 26 years.

According to police officials, Pramanik attempted to enter the elevator when a malfunction with the sensor caused the doors to close prematurely. Trapped in the doorway, he cried for help, but within moments, the lift started moving upwards, pinning him between the wall and the elevator door. Upon arrival, the Fire brigade personnel provided oxygen to those stuck and cut open the doors in an effort to free Pramanik. Despite this, he suffered severe injuries and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. His family has filed a police complaint. A case has been registered under Section 109 of the IPC. **–BMB**

30-year-old dies by suicide

A 30-year-old man ended his life by suicide on Wednesday at his residence in Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru, reportedly due to family health issues. The deceased, identified as Karthikeyan, had been living with his parents for the past four years at GK Layout, Bengaluru. Originally from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Karthikeyan held a Chartered Accountant qualification and was employed for the past year.

According to the complaint lodged by his father on Thursday at Parappana Agrahara Police Station, Karthikeyan had recently been under mental distress following an accident in Coimbatore, coupled with ongoing health issues affecting his father. On the evening of the incident, he had informed his mother of a water shortage. He then went downstairs to alert the house owner, returned, locked himself in, and took the grave step. The police found no signs of foul play. An autopsy has been requested to confirm the cause of death. The family has sought the body for last rites. **–BMB**

Parking dispute turns deadly

A 70-year man was stabbed by a 39-year-old accused while attempting to defend his daughter-in-law during a dispute over parking in Annapurneswari Nagar. The conflict began as an argument between the victim's daughter-in-law and the accused, reportedly over parking a car in front of their house.

When the argument intensified, the daughter-in-law tossed a knife toward her father-in-law to potentially aid him in self-defence. However, the situation took a violent turn when the accused seized the knife and stabbed the victim in the back. After the attack, the accused quickly fled the scene, leaving the victim critically injured. The victim was immediately rushed to a private hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment for serious injuries. The police have registered a case regarding the assault and have arrested the accused. The case is under investigation. **–BMB**

Tourist found dead in lodge

A 43-year-old Maldivian national was found dead on Wednesday in his hotel room in Ganganagar. The deceased, identified as Hasan Suhel, had reportedly arrived in Bengaluru from the Maldives on Sunday for a trip. Following the discovery, the RT Nagar police registered a suo motu Unnatural Death Report (UDR).

The hotel staff attempted to enter Suhel's room for cleaning on Wednesday morning but received no response. After several unsuccessful attempts to contact him, the staff alerted the police. He was then found lying lifeless on the bed. Police officials stated that Suhel had a ticket booked for Bhopal but had not left the hotel. He was last seen by hotel staff on Tuesday morning. No visible injuries were found during initial investigation. Dehydration or a cardiac issue is suspected as the cause; confirmation awaits the post-mortem report. The Maldives Embassy has been informed, and nearby CCTV footage is being reviewed in the ongoing investigation. **–BMB**

Citizens file HC petition for pending road repairs

Residents of Chikkatayappa Reddy Layout approach High Court after BBMP fails to repair road; court issues contempt notice to BBMP, with hearing set for Nov 29

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is responsible for maintaining roads to ensure smooth commuting. While significant funds, including state government grants, have been allocated for road improvements, a stretch at Chikkatayappa Reddy Layout, Chelekere near Kalyan Nagar remains unpaved, causing inconvenience to residents.

Frustrated with unresponsive authorities and representatives, residents have filed a petition in the Karnataka High Court, seeking BBMP's direction to asphalt the road. Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Waiting for the road" on April 19, 2023, narrating how the residents at Chikkatayappa Reddy Layout are facing problems due to the bad condition of the 2nd Cross of Chelekere.

Residents claimed BBMP authorities failed to address the issue despite repeated complaints and a High Court directive. Sree Kumar K, a resident of Chikkatayappa Reddy Layout, filed a petition in the Karnataka High Court seeking a resolution. In its order dated May 31, 2024, the High Court directed BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath to comply with the instructions outlined in paragraph 6 of the learned Single Judge's order within two months. Prior to this, the petitioner filed a writ petition in the Karnataka High Court seeking direction from the BBMP authorities. Honourable Judge Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued an order on March 24, 2023, to complete the works of asphalting the roads and providing water supply and sanitation service at the earliest.

The poor condition of the road at Chelekere near Chikkatayappa Reddy Layout

The deadline for the High Court order dated May 31, 2024, ended on July 31, 2024, but the condition of the road remained the same. Now, the honourable Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court issued notice to the BBMP Chief Commissioner for contempt of court and adjourned the hearing of the petition to November 29. Meanwhile, residents are demanding the BBMP authorities to asphalt the road which has been pending for quite a long time. "It is unfortunate that BBMP authorities failed to follow the High Court's order. Now, Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court has ordered issuance of a contempt notice to the BBMP Chief Commissioner," said Sree Kumar K.

> **"It is unfortunate that BBMP failed to follow HC's order. Now Chief Justice of HC has ordered issuance of a contempt notice to BBMP** – Sree Kumar K, resident

Rajendra Prasad K, a resident, said the BBMP authorities have neglected the road thus causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents. "We have been complaining to the BBMP authorities to fix this problem but nothing has been done to mitigate our woes," said Rajendra Prasad.

Another resident, Arun Fernandes said that he has been struggling to take out the vehicle from his house due to the poor condition of the road. "I urge the BBPM authorities to asphalt the road without further delay," he said. Expressing a similar opinion, Anthony Peter, a resident, said the condition of the road becomes worse whenever it rains. "It will be a great help for the residents of the BBMP authorities to asphalt the road," he said.

Quick action by traffic police prevents suicide

Traffic police rescued a man attempting suicide by jumping off the Richmond flyover on Wednesday.

Sub-Inspectors Harish Kumar BM and Lokesh DG, stationed at the Ashok Nagar traffic police station, were present at the junction when the incident occurred. Around 6:30 pm, the officers saw Venkataraju's phone fall as he tried to jump off the flyover. They quickly rushed to the spot on a motorcycle and managed to stop him.

Investigation revealed that Venkataraju, a cab driver, was mentally disturbed after his grandmother's dismissal. While returning home after being discharged from NIMHANS, he had an argument with his wife, got out of the car, and attempted suicide, but the police intervened in time to save him.

(If you're experiencing suicidal thoughts, help is available. Please call Sahayavani at 104 for support)

POCSO charges on school owner

A 50-year-old man was arrested by the Madanayakanahalli police on Thursday for misbehaving with a group of girls at a school. The accused, Eerathaiah (50), is the secretary and owner of a private school. According to the police, he would call the girls to his office and misbehave with them. All the girls are in class 10 and have reported the incidents to their parents multiple times.

This led to the parents staging a protest outside the school demanding action. The police enquired and arrested the accused. He has been booked under various sections of the POCSO Act.

Taxi drivers' awareness program held

The North East Division Police held an awareness program on Thursday, for over 100 drivers and members of the Airport Taxi Drivers Association, along with traffic, airport, and RTO officials. The program was organised in response to multiple incidents of harassment reported by airport taxi drivers.

There have been numerous complaints about drivers demanding extra money, with some cases escalating to harassment when passengers refused. These incidents have become a common concern at the airport.

During the program, drivers also voiced their grievances, citing misunderstandings and rude behaviour from passengers. The meeting focused on safety measures and the importance of adhering to rules and regulations. **— BMB**

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Parking blocked

SP Road

A Juice Centre on SP Road has set up a garbage cans, blocking parking space and troubling local businesses.

Footpath damage

Kempapura

Cement slabs on the footpath along Kempapura Main Road near Hebbal have been deteriorating for years.

HC stays probe on Tejasvi Surya over 'fake information on farmer's suicide'

Court issues interim order on petition filed by Surya seeking quashing of FIR filed against him by Haveri police over his tweet linking farmer's suicide to Wakf Board

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday issued an interim stay on the investigation against the BJP Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya, who was accused of disseminating 'false information' about a farmer's suicide in Haveri district.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single-judge bench, issued the interim order in response to Surya's petition to nullify the FIR. The court considered that the petitioner had removed the contested tweet after police clarified details about the suicide, along with statements from the deceased's father to the media.

The special public prosecutor contested the interim order during proceedings, questioning whether the tweet would affect sentiments and foster discord between groups. He stated, "Heavens are not going to fall if the case is pending against him. No stay order should be passed." The bench remarked that the matter could be viewed as "criticism of the government's policy."

Surya, on November 7, shared content from Kannada news outlets suggesting that Rudrappa Channappa Balikai had taken his life after learning the Waqf Board had acquired his land. The post was subsequently removed when the claims proved incorrect. The Haveri SP explained that whilst Balikai's suicide occurred on January 6, 2022, it was due to financial difficulties from crop failure and debts, not any Waqf Board dispute. Subsequently, authorities initiated a suo-motu case under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on November 7 regarding the publication of content intended to incite hatred or animosity between different communities.

HC declines plea seeking admission priority to school

The HC has ruled that admission priority to schools cannot be considered a vested right, and priority granted in a previous academic year cannot be claimed as a legal right for continuing such quota.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind delivered this judgement while dismissing an appeal by grandchildren of serving/retired employees of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The appellants had challenged the single judge bench order that dismissed their petition seeking preference in admission to Kendriya Vidyalaya for the AY 2024-2025 under "Grandparents Sponsoring Quota," which was unavailable this year.

The appellants contended that admission guidelines provide priority categories. Clause 3(B)6 granted admission priority to children not covered under specific categories. They argued that grandchildren of serving/retired employees received preference in previous AY's guidelines, and the case falls under residuary clause. Additionally, the AY 2023-2024 guidelines provided admission preference.

The Union of India opposed this, stating that priorities are established to address educational needs of transferable Central Government employees' children and other objectives. They further said admission priority cannot be claimed as a vested right, and the quota cannot continue when such priority is absent from the 2024-2025 guidelines.

The court, upon examining all the records and noting that the appellants had not challenged the 2024-2025 guidelines, stated, "The exclusion of preference for grandchildren can neither be faulted nor interfered with by the Court." It concluded, "In light of the change of priorities in the guidelines 2024-2025 and the sound and well-acceptable reasons assigned by the learned Single Judge, no error can be booked to interfere with the order."

Congress workers stage a protest against MP Tejasvi Surya & BJP leaders in B'luru on Saturday

BM Food & Night Life
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5 ways to flavour food while keeping it healthy

Salty foods are easy to overeat, making your diet plans go for a toss. Eating more salt can also cause your body to retain more water, which can contribute to extra kilos. And not to forget the extra calories that store-bought condiments and sauces pack in! If you're looking to add a dose of healthy flavour, and nothing else, to your food, here are some ingredients.

Lemon Juice

A dash of lemon juice can bring alive any dish! Spritz some into plain water and hydrate yourself the healthy way. Lemon and lime zest can also be added to cakes, tarts, and cookies, to salads, marinades, sauces, soups, and more.

Vinegar

Balsamic vinegar is the most popular type of vinegar that works well as a dressing or dip, and can also be used in sauces and marinades. This vinegar is both sweet and sour in taste, so works well with a variety of foods. You can also give apple cider a shot–its fruity, tart taste is a great addition to salads and meat marinades.

Ginger

Add a hot zing to both savoury as well as sweet foods with ginger. Add fresh ginger juice to teas, smoothies, and juices for flavour while you cut back on sugar. Fresh ginger juice, chopped or minced ginger can also be added to jams, cakes, muffins, and cookies. Add a dash of ginger juice to your vinaigrette or marinade, or add ginger juliennes to stir-fry vegetables.

Garlic

Roast a whole head of garlic, mash it and use on whole wheat toast instead of other fattening spreads. Add garlic to boiling pasta and whole grains to make the dish more flavourful without added calories.

Herbs

Parsley, rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano, and lots more can be added to various cuisines and dishes for added flavour. If you're watching your weight, skip buying tomato ketchup from outside and make your own! Do away with added salt and sugars and flavour homemade sauce with herbs. Buy plain butter instead of salted and flavour it with herbs of choice. Herbs like mint can be added to sweets and beverages.

–Femina

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High Court upholds interim stay powers for authorities

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that an Appellate Authority under the POSH Act possesses the implicit authority to issue interim stay orders on Internal Committee reports. This ruling came while considering a writ petition challenging both a final report from the internal committee and a transfer order based on its recommendations. Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav, presiding over the single-bench, stated, "The provision under the Act and the Rules does not contain any stipulation regarding granting of interim relief. It must be noticed however that the Act does not expressly prohibit the appellate authority from passing an interim order and once the appellate authority has the power to set aside impugned proceedings, it can be construed that the appellate authority also has implied power to consider passing of interim order of stay as well."

The petitioner, a Finance Officer, challenged allegations of workplace sexual harassment and the subsequent transfer order. Despite filing an appeal and stay application, the Appellate Authority did not issue any orders. The Court noted the absence of legal prohibition and emphasised the authority's power to grant interim relief. The writ petition was subsequently disposed of. — BMB

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Rules likely to come into effect from Oct next year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

consumption is more than 20,000 litres per day.

"The notification caters to anybody whose water consumption is more than 5,000 liters per day. The notification also underlines that those unable to establish decentralised STP would have to purchase carbon credits. The rules are expected to come into force from October 1, 2025," said a senior official from KSPCB.

In case a bulk user is not able to set up an on-site decentralised wastewater treatment facility of requisite capacity, they will have to obtain an exemption for the corresponding quantity of wastewater from a local body or authority concerned by purchasing extended user responsibility (EUR) certificates from registered wastewater treatment facilities.

Not doable?

According to the Bangalore Apartment Federation, such an ask is impractical.

"Setting up STP for consumption of 5,000 litres is not practical. Going by a rough calculation, a building with less than 10 families might end up consuming this quantity in a day. Setting up STP has space and other requirements that might not be fulfilled in smaller residential societies. Since water is a state subject, we hope these rules will be revised and made practical," said Satish Mallya, vice president of the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF).

Rules for in-situ STPs

The Government of Karnataka, in a notification issued in March this year, had revised its rules around the establishment of in-situ STPs in residential units.

As per the government's new notification, in areas with existing sewer lines and STPs of local bodies, all residential societies, housing projects, and apartments with 120 units and above or generating sewage of 80 KLD and above were told to compulsorily install STPs.

When it comes to areas without sewer lines and STP from local bodies, residential societies, housing projects, and apartments with 20 units and having a total built-up area of 2,000 square meters including the basement should install STP.

All smart cards will be printed at central facility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Instant info

The QR code, coupled with a chip, allows for rapid access to critical details with a quick scan. Police officers and other authorities will be able to verify key information about vehicles and their owners instantly, an advantage that can streamline processes in cases of traffic violations, accidents, and thefts. While basic information can be viewed through the QR code, complete details can be accessed through a special chip reader.

All smart cards will now be printed at a central facility at the Transport Commissioner's office in Shantinagar, rather than individually at each RTO. This centralised printing system ensures uniform quality and allows the Transport Department to streamline card distribution across the state. The high-tech printing machinery, estimated to cost over Rs 3 crore, will make sure every card meets high standards for durability and clarity.

Project facilities

To support the new system, RTO offices statewide will also see long-overdue upgrades in their infrastructure. Most offices have been operating with outdated computers and printers. As part of the project, the selected vendor will supply new computers, UPS systems, printers, and generators, enhancing the IT capabilities of RTOs and improving efficiency for the staff handling the card distribution process.

What information will be on the card?

The DL cards will contain over 25 data points, including the vehicle owner's name, address, date of birth, validity period, and contact information. The RC cards, similarly, will hold detailed data about the vehicle, such as model, registration date, manufacturing details, engine number, and chassis number. This comprehensive information, available on both the QR code and the chip, allows for a high degree of verification and tracking that was previously unavailable with PVC cards.

"It's like one nation, one card. Previously, different states had varying materials and formats for printing information, but with this initiative, we ensure a standardised pattern across all states," Gnanendra Kumar, Additional Commissioner for Transport, told BM.

Tender challenges

Although two companies have been shortlisted for the project, the department is waiting for the High Court's order to finalise on one. "We are waiting for the court to finalise the tender process. A date has been set for November 21, and hopefully, if the court gives an interim decision, we can proceed," said Kumar.

Benefits for law enforcement

The QR code-enabled DL and RC cards are expected to make a notable impact on law enforcement. Traffic police and other authorities will now be able to scan a card to quickly access vital information during roadside checks, accident investigations, and vehicle theft cases.

"Through the KSP app, by entering a vehicle number, we are already able to access and verify details. This initiative will not only assist law enforcement but also benefit the public, as it will be more accessible in the public domain," said Kuldeep Kumar Jain, DCP Traffic East.

60-75 days

As prescribed by MORTH (Ministry of road transport and Highways), notifications with respect to different types of smart cards, and materials which could be used and all the other specifications with regards to the smart card will be followed by the Karnataka Transport Department.

"The department has been given 60 to 75 days for the card-making process once the work order is issued," said Kumar.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Likhitha Keshav alias Likhitha Lakshminarasappa N, D/o Lakshminarasappa, R/at No. 41/1F/1, 4th 'A' Cross, Health Layout, Annapoornesh wari Nagara, Behind VTU Office, Srigandhada Kavalu, Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore-560091 here by declare that my correct name is Likhitha Lakshminarasappa only, vide affidavit dated 12.11.2024 before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

I Althaf K S/o Khalandar S B R/o No 165 8th cross near church Gangondanahalli Bangalore 560039, have changed my name to Altaf K S/o Khalindar S B

I, Mythily Mahesh, R/o. 16/1,2nd Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore, changed my name to Mythily vide affidavit dated 13/11/2024 Sworn before notary B.R.Shashikala.

I, MOHAMED ISMAIL NABI R/a.No.68, 6th Cross, 10th Main, Vasanthappa Block, Ganganagar Bengaluru-32 I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ISMAIL ALAIS RAFIQ Vide affidavit dated 12/11/2024 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I Aneesh A K, S/O K Appukutty, R/O M109, Ittina Mahaveer, Neeladri Nagar, Doddathoguru, Electronic City, Bengaluru,Karnataka- 560100, have changed my name to Aneesh Appukutty

I, Supreeth R/o No.9, MCHS colony, 14th cross, 14th main, 4th sector, HSR layout Bengaluru 560102 have changed my name to Supreeth Narayanswamy Affidavit Dt.13/11/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Gnana Prakash S/o K Ananda Reddy R/o # 45, Sanjeevini, 2nd Crs, Krishna Temple Rd, Beside Krishna Greens Apts, D B Sandra, V R Pura Po, Bengaluru 560097 have changed my name to Gnana Prakash A for all purposes.

I, NOUSHAD KHAN R/O No 33/2 Matkar Lane Kacharkanahalli HBR Layout Arabic College Kadugondanahalli Bengaluru-560045.I have changed my name to NOUSHAD KHAN PATHAN vide affidavit dated: 11/11/2024 before notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Imran, S/o. Munir Sab, R/o. #194, Mysore Rd, Anchepalya, Kumbalagodu, Blr-560060, have changed my name to MUBARAK PASHA vide affidavit Dtd: 14/11/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I, Mohammad Wasim Iqbal R/o 63/1, Rainbow Garden Layout, Begihalli, Bangalore - 560105 have changed my minor daughter's name from Rida Naaz to Shaikh Rida Naaz for all purposes.

I Sindhu Phaniraj W/o Phaniraj Subbanna R/o Presti - ge Lakeridge Flat No 6114, Veeranjaneya Layout, Yadalam Nagar,B'luru-560061 have changed my name to Sindhu Yagati Sreedhar for all purposes

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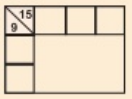
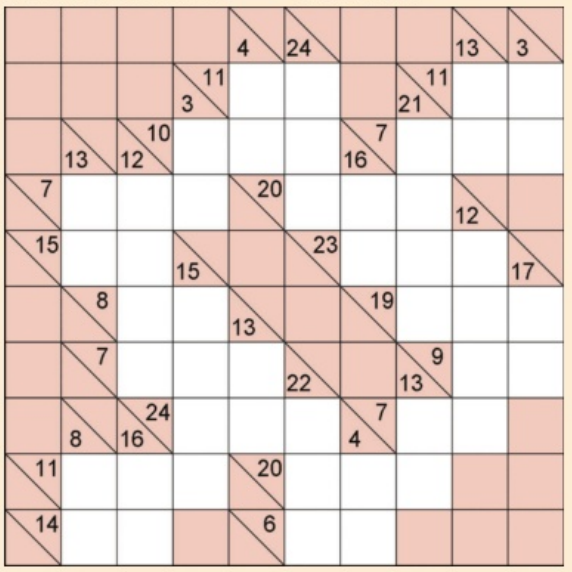
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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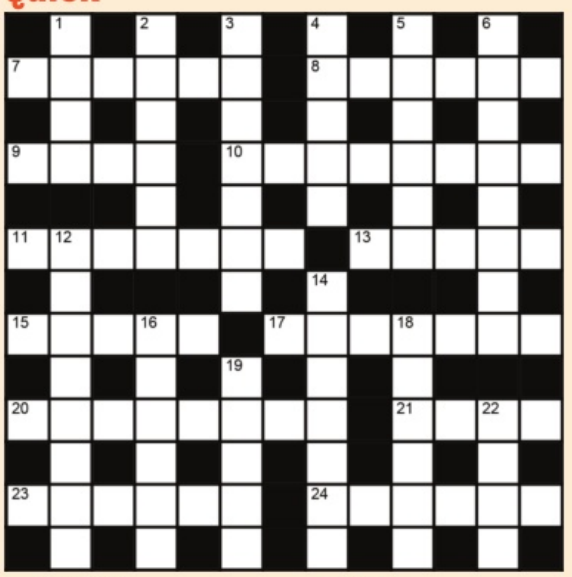


ACROSS

7 Another word for "kabbadi" (2,2,2)
8 Material used to make kilts (6)
9 Food store in short? (4)
10 Hundred and eight inches? (4,4)
11 Share of the spoils (4-3)
13 Theatre attendant (5)
15 Thin strands (5)
17 One of Malleshwaram's main streets (7)
20 Customary, conventional or normal in day to day life (8)
21 Water plant (4)
23 Not a particular individual? (6)
24 Maharashtra city (6)

DOWN

1 Stubborn one (4)
2 Relating to wolves (6)
3 Unplug (4,3)
4 Astounds or stupefies (5)
5 Inducts or designs (6)
6 Infrequency or singularity (8)
12 Birds of a region (8)
14 Of maximum height? (7)
16 Jail (6)
18 Dad or mom's mom (6)
19 Geometrical solids (5)
22 Deep hollow (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS D

TCV'N BCYYK BODV KCR QYD VCN YDJCHVZMDT, XRN GNYZLD NC XD BCYNOK CI YDJCHVZNZCV.

Linemaro

I wanna live in your socks so I can be with you every step of the way

Mindchow

Make today worth remembering

Joke of the day

Mom: Jimmy, why are you home so early?" Jimmy: "Because I was the only one that answered a question in my class."
Mom: "Wow, my son is a genius. What was the question?"
Jimmy: "Who threw the trash can at the principal's head?"

Loop

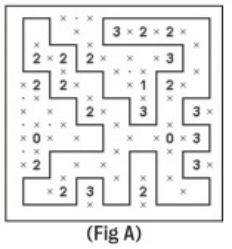
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

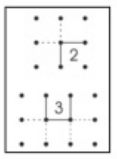
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

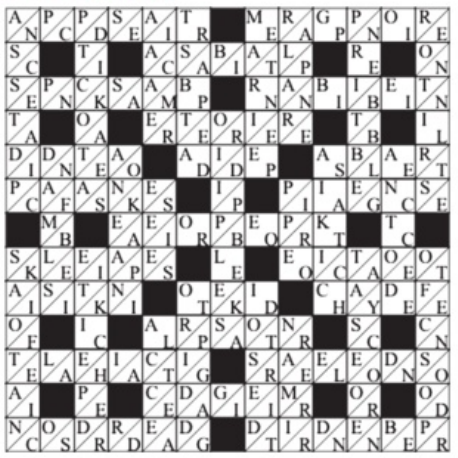


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3 H	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Baths; 6 Or ape; 7 Rosin; 8 Sen me; 9 Gyp as

DOWN

1 Bingo; 2 An ape; 3 Sheer; 4 To RPM; 5 Says S

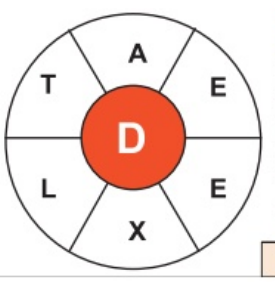
Mensapuzzle

Below are three squeezer puzzles. Can you find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end and one back-end? Here's an example or how it works:
ever **GREEN** horn

house _ _ _ _ over

safe _ _ _ _ _ house

air _ _ _ _ _ fisted



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8			3	1	7			9
	9			2			7	
4			8		9			5
	3	9				7	1	
	8	6				3	9	
3			1		5			6
	6			4			5	
1			6	8	2			7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
5 5 8 9

Medium = 3
5 7 8 9

Hard = 51
2 7 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Stack of bills is moved. 2. Polka dot is missing. 3. Pencil in hair is moved. 4. Curtain is missing. 5. Top of desk is wider. 6. Man's sleeve is shorter.

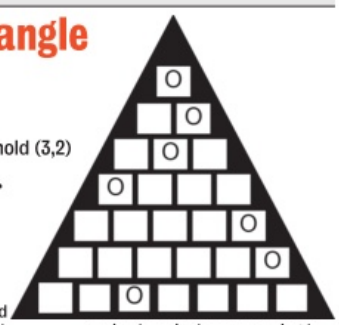
Riddler

Complete the word square by inserting the 9 letters into the grid, to create the same words reading down & across.

D E E L L L O O O E A C H A _ _ _ C _ _ _ H _ _ _

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 Move
3 Record events
4 Eye flirtatiously
5 Relinquish one's hold (3,2)
6 Trattoria treat
7 Was a bad winner



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Can you help me overcome depression except when I'm writing songs?
Wayno & Piraro 8-12-24
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HEART!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT A NOTE WITH YOUR BREAKFAST.
COOL!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HEART! GET READY FOR THE BEST BIRTHDAY TOUR OF YOUR LIFE! FIRST STOP: HAIR STUDIO PA
:KAT
AAAHHH! YES!! MOM, LET'S GO!!!
WAIT! AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT YOUR BREAKFAST?!
WOOSH!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may consider renovating your home or adding decorative items to enhance your social status. A harmonious atmosphere is likely with your spouse, bringing peace at home. Disputes with friends, coworkers, or partners may also resolve, and good news could arrive regarding legal matters.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel energised, with old health issues possibly improving. Good news from a close relative is likely. Your office performance will shine, and support from subordinates may help you tackle a challenging project, boosting trust and prestige within your social circle. Positive developments in legal matters may also emerge.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today may feel challenging, but seeking advice from elders could provide guidance. Kids' education might concern you, possibly prompting a short academic-related trip. It is advised to avoid speculative investments. You may also consider enrolling in a course to boost your skills.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today might bring some disappointment, as focus at work could wane, affecting your routine tasks and delaying projects. You are advised to be patient and hold off on new investments or construction plans for now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, sibling disputes may be resolved, strengthening family ties. Your energy levels seem strong, helping you complete a challenging project with ease. A work-related trip could expand your network, and you may assist someone in need, enhancing your reputation. You might also meet an influential person who could help you professionally in the future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, family activities could bring joy, and new sources of income may enhance your financial stability. By exercising control over unnecessary expenses, you might purchase meaningful items that elevate your social standing. Involvement in kids' academics may also keep you busy.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, a surge of energy could help you complete tasks efficiently, bringing a sense of accomplishment. Encouraging those who feel down may also boost your standing. A good balance between family and work is likely, and those in import/export, trading, or strategy roles may find success.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may experience some dissatisfaction and laziness, slowing your productivity. Lovebirds should avoid making major marriage decisions, and job seekers may face disappointments in interviews. You may feel like you wasted time on less productive activities.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, focus may drift, leading to unrealistic expectations and some discouragement. You are advised to be cautious with adventure activities and rash driving. By the afternoon, however, business may pick up with new clients, potentially boosting future profits.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, self-reflection could help you overcome weaknesses, boosting your confidence. Singles may meet a promising match, and clarity in relationships benefits those in love. Opportunities for overseas travel might arise, and students may hear good academic news.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, circumstances feel manageable. You may plan for an overseas trip, with your network proving beneficial for work. Domestic harmony is likely, and creativity may lead you to bring home or office decor. A movie or gathering with friends or family could be enjoyable.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you're likely to excel at work; you may be assigned new responsibilities, possibly leading to a promotion. At the start of the week, financial gains seem likely, allowing a balanced approach to earnings and expenses that strengthens your bank balance. Financial matters may improve as loans are repaid, and you'll feel in control of opponents or hidden challenges. Health appears stable.

KIDZONE

Kavya CK, Bengaluru

Lavanya R, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
8 x 81 x 4 / 96 = 648 x 4 / 96 = 2592 / 96 = 27

BULL'S EYE
axed, dale, date, deal, dealt, delta, elated, EXALTED, lade, lead, taxed

STRIKE OUT

A	P	P	E	A	R	M	A	G	P	I	E	N		
C	I		C	A	B	A	L		E		N			
E	N	C	A	M	P	R	A	B	B	I	T			
A		E		E	A	G	E	R		O		O		
T	A	H	I	T	I		S	A	L	O	N	S		
F		C		A	R	S	O	N		C		N		
A	S	T	I		T	E	D		H	Y	D	E		
K	E	F	P	S		L		O	C	T	E	T		
C	A	S	K	S		P		P	I	E	C	E		
M		A	I	R	P	O	R	T		T				
I	N	T	O		D	I	E		A	L	A	R		
T		O		E	E	R	I	E		B		I		
E	N	C	A	M	P	R	A	B	B	I	T			
A		E		E	A	G	E	R		O		O		
T	A	H	I	T	I		S	A	L	O	N	S		
F		C		A	R	S	O	N		C		N		
A	S	T	I		T	E	D		H	Y	D	E		
K	E	F	P	S		L		O	C	T	E	T		
C	A	S	K	S		P		P	I	E	C	E		
M		A	I	R	P	O	R	T		T				
I	N	T	O		D	I	E		A	L	A	R		
T		O		E	E	R	I	E		B		I		
E	N	C	A	M	P	R	A	B	B	I	T			
A		E		E	A	G	E	R		O		O		
N	O	D	D	E	D		D	I	N	N	E	R		

FAST FIVE

B	A	H	T	S
I	N	R	O	S
O	P	E	R	A
N	E	E	M	S
G	A	S	P	Y

RIDDLER
EACH ALOE CO OL HELD Each, Aloe, Cool, Held

QUICK

M	L		S	D	R									
H	U	T	U	T	A	R	T	A	N					
L		P		R		U		A		R				
D	E	L	I		N	I	N	E	F	E	E	T		
		N		O		S		T		N				
R	A	K	E	O	F		F		U	S	H	E	R	
		V			F		T			S				
W	I	S	P	S		M	A	R	G	O	S	A		
F		R		C		L			R					
H	A	B	I	T	U	A	L		A	L	G	A		
U		S		B		E		N		U				
A	N	Y	O	N	E		S	A	N	G	L	I		
A		Y			F		T			S				
A	N		S		T		Y		F					

MENSA PUZZLE
house HOLD over safe GUARD house air TIGHT fisted

QUOTE UNCODE
Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition.

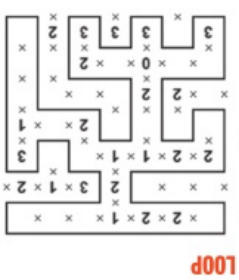
SUDOKU

8	5	2	3	1	7	6	4	9
6	9	1	5	2	4	8	7	3
4	7	3	8	6	9	1	2	5
2	3	9	4	5	6	7	1	8
7	1	4	9	3	8	5	6	2
5	8	6	2	7	1	9	3	4
3	2	7	1	9	5	4	8	6
9	6	8	7	4	3	2	5	1
1	4	5	6	8	2	9	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
9 + 5 – 8 – 5 = 1 Easy
7 + 9 – 5 – 8 = 3 Medium
7 x 8 + 2 – 7 = 51 Hard

GO FIGURE
0, Go, Log, Ogle, Let go, Gelato, Gloated.

LOOP



KAKURO

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Jacky's defence — Jacqueline Fernandez's lawyers have said in court hearing the case involving Sukesh Chandrashekar, that she was she was unaware of the illicit origin of the lavish gifts and was not involved in any money laundering

How Nayanthara fell in love

Superstar Nayanthara has recollected how she and her husband, Vignesh Shivan fell in love. The actress made the revelation in her streaming documentary 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale'. On Thursday, the makers shared a clip from the documentary.

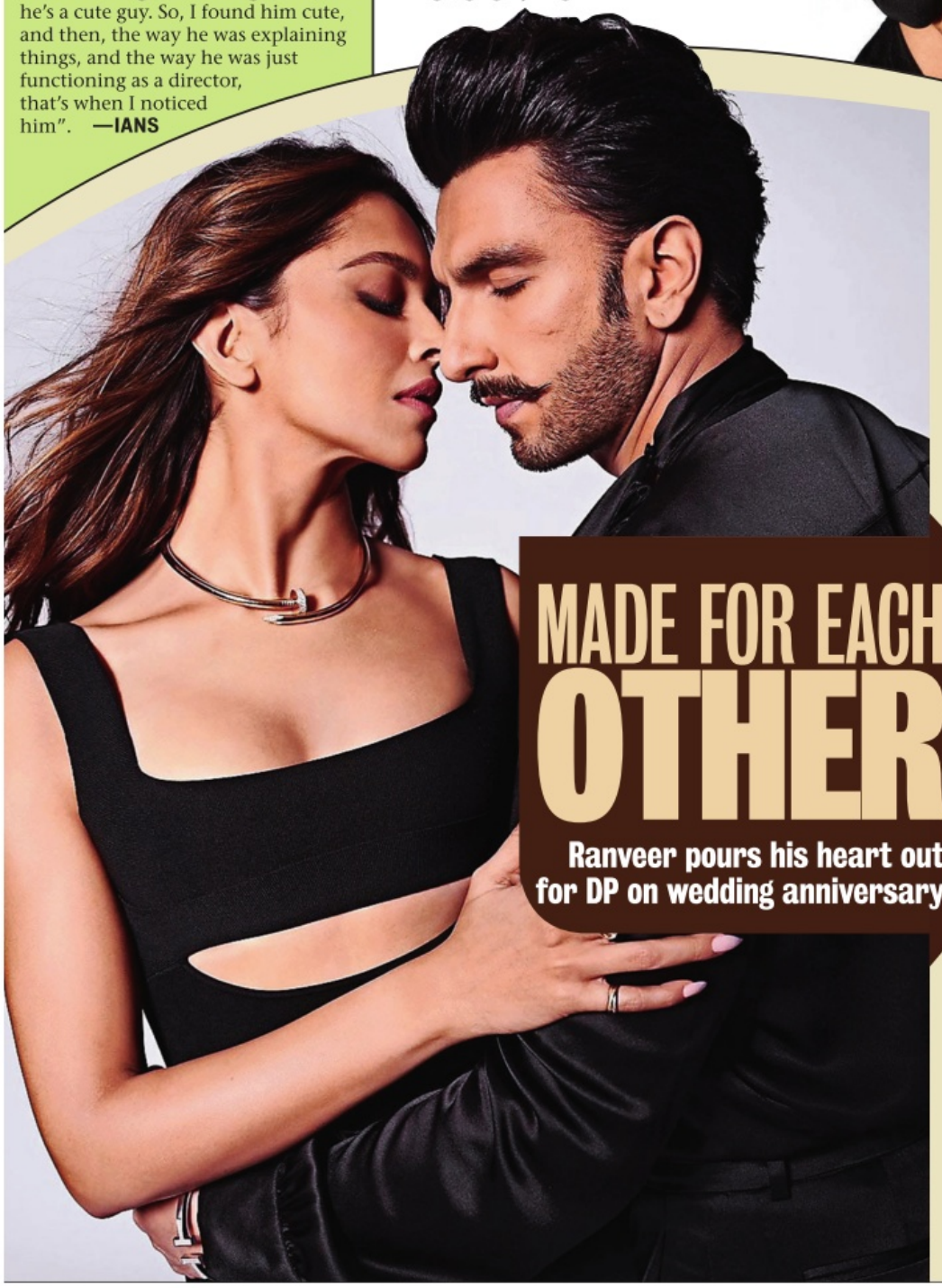
In it, Nayanthara said, "One day, all of a sudden, we were doing one scene on the roads of Pondicherry. I was sitting on the road waiting for my shot. And Vicky was doing a shot with, I think, Vijay Sethupathi sir. And, he was doing his shot and all that". She added, "For some strange reason, all of a sudden, I looked at him, and I looked at him differently. The first thing that I thought was, he's a cute guy. So, I found him cute, and then, the way he was explaining things, and the way he was just functioning as a director, that's when I noticed him". —IANS

Dream come true

Actress Soundarya Sharma is all set to make her Hollywood debut with "John Wick" series director Chad Stahelski. The 'Housefull 5' actress is incredibly thrilled.

Talking about her big debut, Soundarya shared, "I am incredibly thrilled. All I can say is, Dream on, dreams do come true. 2024 is incredibly special — it started with Housefull 5, all thanks to NGE and my 'godsister' Warda Nadiadwala, and now I'm trying and paving my way in Hollywood, which I'm really looking forward to. I had shot a few sequences almost a year ago for the same project, but I never like to talk much until it's executed because I'm superstitious about it."

She added, "I'm super excited to finish my last schedule in Los Angeles and France in January. I shot parts of it this year before my Housefull 5 schedule. Due to the NDA, I can't share further details, but I will soon, as per the ideal timeline." The former Bigg Boss 16 contestant also shared pictures with director Chad Stahelski on her Instagram handle, writing in the caption, "Finally, I get to post these!!! As they say, Dream on, dreams do come true. Manifestations DO WORK! Here with the one and only, the great filmmaker and director of the John Wick series chad stahelski and my dearest friend hugh_gregoryfitzgerald..." —IANS



MADE FOR EACH OTHER

Ranveer pours his heart out for DP on wedding anniversary

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on Thursday. Their love story began on the sets of 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela: Ram-Leela'. During an appearance at the India Today Conclave in 2019, Ranveer revealed that he knew Deepika was the woman he wanted to start a family with just six months into their relationship.

When discussing his love story with Deepika, Ranveer shared, "It was a breeze. Six months into our relationship, I knew she was the one. And, this was the one I want to marry and get old with and be the mother of my children. I nurtured it, cultivated it. She took her time to come around. It was a matter of time. I wanted her."

During the same event, he also spoke about supporting Deepika through her battle with depression. He said, "There are phases in every relationship. If your focus is to make it work regardless of any issues, then you do it. As a couple, we have seen each other in every phase. I have seen her through different phases. She once went into this unprecedented stratosphere of stardom and post 2013, I started dating her before that. I have seen a lot of growth and evolution. We have grown together."

He further added, "It is a matter of being patient and sensitive and having that empathy. She is the warmest, nicest, all-consuming magic soul in the world. I am the luckiest guy in the world."

Ranveer also shared unseen photos of Deepika to celebrate their wedding anniversary. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Poster unveiled

Geetha Pictures has announced its upcoming film A for Anand that delves into the bond between a teacher and his students. The movie features the legendary actor Dr. Shivarajkumar in a pivotal role. The poster of the movie was released on Children's Day.

The movie, to be directed by Srini, is his second movie with Dr Shivarajkumar after the film Ghost. According to Srini, A for Anand is about students in a village and Anand, an inspiring teacher who becomes a mentor and a friend. "Dr Shivarajkumar told me to meet his better half Geetha during the shooting of Ghost as she wanted to discuss a story idea for this movie. Geetha Shivarajkumar advised me to provide an opportunity for children at Shakti Dhama, a charity organisation founded by Dr Rakumar and Parvathamma Rajkumar. I have conducted makeup tests for around 20 kids," the director said.

In new avatar

Gurunandan, known for comedy movies, is set to appear in a new avatar in his latest movie Raju James Bond. The movie's motion poster was released by producers Manjunath Vishwakarma from London and Kiran Bharturu from Canada on Saturday at an event in Sadashivanagar. The movie is scheduled to arrive in theaters on December 27.

Deepak Madhuvanahalli, who handled the megaphone for Bhagyaraj and Kalbettada Darodekoraru, has directed Raju James Bond. "We brought Gurunandan out of his First Rank Raju image. The movie is a clean entertainer without double-meaning dialogues. The audiences will be laughing for at least 45 minutes out of the two-and-half hour's runtime of the film. Let us wrap the year with a hearty laugh," the director said, adding that the movie has come out well.

Manjunath Vishwakarma said the director has done a good job. "I am confident that audiences will appreciate this comedy-oriented movie. We are making arrangements to release this movie in Hindi too," he said.

Gurunandan thanked the director for showcasing him in a different avatar.